

Condensed News of the Week

A one thousand dollar fine for illegal acts as a corporate body was imposed on December 12 by Judge Holdom at Chicago on a labor union composed of press feeders. The union was found guilty of contempt of court for violating an injunction recently issued restraining it from interfering with the business or employes of ten printing firms in the city of Chicago. This action by Judge Holdom established a precedent in such cases, it being the first time in this country that a court has fined a union as a corporation. An appeal was taken.

The strike situation in Colorado does not seem to improve in any way. It is declared by the strikers that there is no truth in the report that the strikes in the Cripple Creek and Telluride districts will be called off. A protest from some citizens and the chamber of commerce of Cripple Creek has been transmitted to the president of the senate in Washington against the resolution recently introduced by Senator Patterson directed against the action taken by Governor Peabody of Colorado in regard to the strike situation.

According to the semi-annual report of the state auditor of Nebraska, recently filed with the governor, the interest-bearing debt of the state has increased more than \$250,000 within six months. The total interest-bearing debt of the state is given as \$2,282,993.71.

What is said to be one of the worst blizzards of many years swept over a large section of the country on December 12, affecting Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa over a large extent. There was a marked decline in the temperature and a great amount of snow fell.

It was announced on December 12 that the Westminster Abbey authorities had declined to permit the ashes of Herbert Spencer, who died recently, to be interred in the abbey.

In an address upon "The Wage Question," made at Philadelphia on December 13, Carroll D. Wright, United States commissioner of labor, expressed the opinion that the only remedy for labor troubles lies in profit-sharing and co-operation on the part of capital and labor. Mr. Wright also advocated a policy of insurance for workers against accident, illness and old age, and speaking on this subject made reference to the plan used in Germany, which plan is also being taken up in England. According to this plan, the employer pays one-fourth the cost of such insurance, the employe one-fourth and the government one-half.

In a wreck near Albia, Ia., on December 13 three people were killed and ten injured. A passenger train became derailed in some manner on a bridge and five cars were wrecked by collision with the steel girders of the bridge.

It seems that the Standard Oil company is meeting with much opposition in its efforts to obtain a footing in Roumania, as that country is opposed to the formation of a petroleum monopoly. It is said, however, that because of its belief in large and valuable oil fields at present undiscovered in Roumania, the Standard Oil company will make an effort to obtain some of them for its European trade.

A company to be known as the Fremont Canal and Power company, and organized for the purpose of building a large hydraulic plant for generating electric energy for light, traction and general power purposes in and around several of the large cities of Nebraska, was recently incorporated under the laws of the state with a capital of \$4,000,000. The construction of this plant will begin in the spring and is estimated to be completed in about two years.

Four factories in the Fox river manufacturing district in northern Illinois were shut down on December 14 because their employes, about 1,500 in number, refused to promise in individual agreements not to strike.

According to a ruling recently made by the Missouri supreme court, the legality of hundreds of arrests and convictions of bootleggers recently made in St. Louis and Missouri is questioned and a great many guilty persons will escape punishment. The court holds that information against

persons charged with crime must be sworn to by prosecuting witnesses in the case and that circuit attorneys or prosecuting attorneys can only swear to information from personal knowledge of the facts.

An Associated press dispatch dated Boston, Mass., December 14, says: A reduction in wages averaging 10 per cent and involving 6,000 operatives, was made today in the cotton mills at Adams, North Adams, Mass., and Norwich, Conn.

According to advices from New York, under date of December 14, the United States steel corporation will cut the wages of employes numbering about 150,000, from 5 to 20 per cent, beginning January 1, 1904.

In the municipal election at Boston, Mass., recently the democrats won by an overwhelming victory, the present mayor, General Patrick Collins, being re-elected by 27,000 majority. The board of aldermen for next year will be solidly democratic and that party will have a large majority in the common council.

The first wage reduction in ten years was put in force in the coke regions of Pennsylvania on December 15 when a cut in wages averaging 17 per cent and affecting 30,000 men was made. The reduction so far affects the men in the Connellsville, Pa., coke region.

According to a decision rendered by the supreme court of Nebraska on December 16, the state revenue law recently passed in the state and the validity of which has been questioned, is declared valid and legal. The opinion to this effect was written by the chief justice of the court and concurred in by the two associate judges.

On December 16 former Colonial Secretary Chamberlain addressed two large audiences at Leeds, England, making the last speeches of his fiscal campaign for the present. The speeches were on the same lines as those he has previously made in regard to the fiscal policy of England.

An Associated press cablegram from Manila, under date of December 17, says: An agreement has been reached by Governor Taft and the friars providing for the settlement of the friar land question. The pope has given his approval of the terms of the settlement and the approval of the war department is awaited. The settlement provides for the purchase of 403,000 acres, comprising all the agricultural lands and buildings of the friars with the exception of 12,000 acres including a farm near Manila, which has been sold to a railway company, and also one sugar plantation. The price agreed upon is \$7,000,250. The friars originally asked \$13,000,000. Governor Taft offered them \$6,000,000.

W. Bourke Cockran will be selected by Tammany to succeed Mayor-elect McClellan of New York city, as representative from the Twelfth district of the state as soon as Mr. McClellan resigns his seat to take the position as mayor.

According to a cablegram from St. Petersburg under date of December 16 it was said that sea of Azov is disappearing and remarkable scenes are in course of enactment. In one place the waters have receded to such an extent during the last five days that the bed of the sea is visible, leaving vessels high and dry. Work in the factories depending for their motive power on the water of this sea has had to be reduced to a minimum.

A dispatch from Havana on December 16 reported that the Havana arsenal had been looted and a considerable amount of munitions of war had been taken and turned over to Colombians who are planning an attack on Panama, for the purpose of restoring Colombian authority. President Palma has announced that he will prosecute the filibusters.

It was given out from Paris on December 18 that Colombia will try through a commission to induce the United States to recognize Colombia's rights under the treaty of 1846 over the isthmus of Panama. If this method should fail, it is said an effort will be made to have the matter submitted to The Hague for arbitration.

A reduction of wages will soon take place among the employes of the Jamison Coal com-

pany operating in Pennsylvania and it is likely that more than 200,000 miners would be affected by such a reduction.

Sixteen hundred livery drivers, backed by every teamsters' union in Chicago, struck in that city on December 18, and as a result nearly 400 livery stables are completely tied up. The drivers demand an increase of wages.

Sir Thomas Lipton of England has been presented with a fine silver service purchased by American friends. It is said that Sir Thomas will challenge once more for the American cup, in the famed yacht races.

A cablegram from London, dated December 18, says: The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that, according to the mandarins, the Peking government has again warned the provincial authorities to prepare for immediate hostilities, owing to the offensive action taken by Russia and her allies regarding far eastern affairs.

The federal grand jury after a session of thirty-eight days at Omaha, Neb., concluded its hearings on December 17. The result of its deliberations is that more important cases are pending for trial in the United States court than ever before in the Nebraska district. Indictments were returned as follows: Senator Charles H. Dietrich, for profiting as a member of congress by a contract entered into with the government. General L. W. Colby, for embezzling, approximately, \$3,000 of government funds; thirty-eight counts. R. M. Allen, president of the Standard Cattle company, for the illegal fencing of public lands. Dan W. Gaines, president Rock County bank, for perjury in securing fraudulent homestead entries. Elliott Lowe, for conspiring with J. C. Mitchell of Alma to bribe Senator Dietrich, and accepting \$1,000 for that purpose. J. C. Mitchell and W. M. Erwin of Alma, jointly and severally, for conspiring to defraud the government by fraudulently increasing the sale of stamps at the Alma postoffice, so as to secure Mitchell, as postmaster, an increase in salary. Important indictments returned in previous reports: Senator Charles H. Dietrich, for bribery and for conspiracy against the United States. Jacob Fisher, postmaster at Hastings, for bribery, and for conspiracy against the United States. Bartlett Richards, W. G. Comstock, Frank Currie and other cattlemen, for the illegal fencing of public lands. Elliott Lowe, former state representative from Harlan county, for conspiracy to bribe Senator Dietrich. Alfred Olson, stamp clerk in the Omaha postoffice, for embezzlement.

The United States cruiser Atlanta returned to Colon on December 17 after a voyage in search of the detachment of Colombian troops reported to be marching on Panama. The detachment, numbering about 600 men, was found and some negotiations were entered into, the Colombian general requesting the withdrawal of the American ships from Colombian waters. This request was ignored by the American authorities. There is a strong probability that the Colombians have not yet given up their designs on Panama, but are awaiting superior orders as to their course.

At a meeting recently of the finance committee of the board of regents of the University of California, it developed that a former secretary has taken at least \$40,000 of the university's money, most of which amount was from private benefactions to the institution.

It was announced from Paris on December 17 that M. Dreyfus will be reinstated in the army with the rank of lieutenant colonel, and that the officers who express dissatisfaction because of this course will be harshly dealt with by the council of the war office.

At Godfrey, Kas., on December 21, an open switch wrecked a fast train, resulting in the death of eight people and the injury of many others.

The independent starch factory of Hubbard Bros. at Keokuk, Ia., was destroyed by fire on December 21. The loss is \$150,000 above insurance. This was the largest independent starch factory in the country.